

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

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TOP SECRET SUPPLEMENT

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. French Union troops and Vietnamese show good teamwork in Tonkin: The recent liberation of 20 southern Tonkin villages without casualties to French Union troops was made possible by the cooperation of the local population, according to the governor of North Vietnam. The Vietnamese Catholic bishop who in effect administers the area wrote a letter of congratulations to the French commander in Tonkin on the good behavior of the French Union troops. (S S/S Hanoi 159, 17 Sept 52)

Comment: The French military and Vietnamese civil authorities have achieved a good working relationship in Tonkin. Praise for the behavior of the French Union troops is in marked contrast to the bitter complaints of less than a year ago. French-Vietnamese cooperation in Tonkin, however, has progressed further than in Vietnam as a whole.

SOUTH ASIA

2. New government and increased unrest foreseen in Nepal: An American official in Katmandu has heard unconfirmed reports that the King of Nepal intends to end his interim rule by appointing a prime minister and cabinet with no political affiliations. The majority of cabinet members will belong to the Rana family, whose hereditary control of Nepal was ended by the "popular" revolution of 1950. Former Prime Minister M. P. Koirala will be included as an independent.

The American official remarks that Nepal Congress Party President B. P. Koirala will not participate in the cabinet, and that in his present bitter mood he might seek aid from local Communists and from China to seize control of the government. In this event, even the Indian Army could not restore order without a major effort. (S S/S Calcutta 96, 17 Sept 52)

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Comment: The Indian Government dominates the King of Nepal and is presumably aware of such plans. If these plans are accurately reported, the Indian Government, which tacitly supported the revolution of 1950, has apparently lost some of its faith in "democratic" government in Nepal. It now seems to be attempting to increase stability by returning the Ranas to power, whether or not the move is locally popular. The likelihood of an armed revolt led by B. P. Koirala exists as long as he is not in power.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

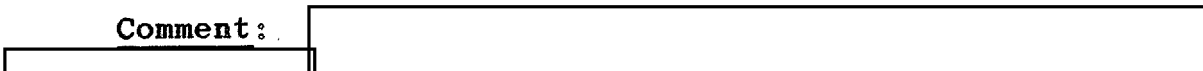
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4. Turkey unfavorable to Greek participation in MEDO: The Turkish Foreign Minister told the American Military Group on 11 September that he did not favor Greek participation in the Middle East Defense Organization. He said that if Greece were admitted, Italy would ask to join and an already complicated situation would be further confused by the presence of members who could not make a substantial contribution. (S S/S Ankara 334, 15 Sept 52)

Comment:



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Turkey desires compact, efficient defense arrangements, however, and is not likely to approve Greek membership.

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